

FDA Commissioner
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 30.5)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

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RE: Docket No. OOD-1598

I want to know what I am eating. It is my decision to make about my own food and health. I am not alone. I work in a grocery store where customers every day ask me about this issue. The American people are frustrated that they are not being told what is going into their food, and they are confused about why this is happening. Many are angry.

The proposed guidance on labeling has obviously not responded to the voice of the American people. FDA public hearings in 1999 and FDA consumer focus groups in May 2000 asked for mandatory labeling of genetically-modified foods. And, the final report of the recent joint EU/US Biotechnology Consultative Forum also supports mandatory labeling. How many times and in how many different ways does this have to be said to get the message across that it is our right to know what we are eating?

The other issue at hand is the unfair burden on manufacturers who choose not to use bioengineered ingredients. The burden and expense should be on those who are introducing this new technology into our food supply. It should be mandatory, not voluntary, to label our food.

I expect the FDA will listen to the people who pay the wages of the FDA, the American people. Please require mandatory labeling of foods that contain genetically modified ingredients. We consumers should have the right of informed choice regarding the selection of what we want to consume.

Sincerely,



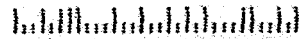
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